

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the office action dated July 28, 2006.

Claims 1-3, 5-10 and 13-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugiyama (U.S. Patent No. 6,965,958), and further in view of Lobiondo (U.S. Patent No. 5,287,194).

Independent claims 1, 13, 20, 22 and 23 have been amended. Claim 21 is canceled for reasons unrelated to this rejection. The amended claims have been amended to show that the functions of these currently-claimed embodiments of the present invention are performed on an end-user computing device in contrast to the more complex systems of the prior art, which use a server-based system.

Sugiyama teaches a server-based system that requires a dedicated server to perform the functions of his invention. Sugiyama teaches the use of a search server (col.3, lines 10-42; col. 4, lines 14-17; Fig. 3) that is connected to the same network as a first client PC 3 and a second client PC 9. Clearly, Sugiyama does not teach an end-user computing device that performs the functions of the current claims.

Lobiondo also teaches a server-based system wherein a workshop scheduler 50 (Fig. 1) works in conjunction with a print server 60 to perform its functions.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugiyama (U.S. Patent No. 6,965,958), and Lobiondo (U.S. Patent No. 5,287,194) as applied to claim 3 above, and further in view of Taniguchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,348,972).

Claim 4 is canceled.

Claims 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugiyama (U.S. Patent No. 6,965,958) and Lobiondo (U.S. Patent No. 5,287,194) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Onuma (U.S. Patent No. 6,570,669).

Claims 11 and 12 are canceled.

Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Owa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,348,971) and further in view of Lobiondo (U.S. Patent No. 5,287,194).

Claim 23 is canceled.

Accordingly, these claims are believed to be patentable, as amended, and the applicant respectfully requests that the examiner allow these claims in their current form.

Respectfully submitted,

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